AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A support ~~based on~~ comprised of a substrate formed of organic and/or inorganic fibres and a chitosan-based coating layer ~~covered~~ on at least one ~~of the faces thereof~~ face of the substrate, wherein the coating layer is a dried residue of an aqueous ~~with a chitosan-based layer, characterized in that the layer is obtained by coating with a~~ chitosan-based ~~aqueous~~ solution which is comprised of prehydrolyzed chitosan having an ~~the~~ average molar mass of ~~which has a mass~~ less then 130 000 g/mol which is present in the solution in a ~~the~~ concentration ~~of which is~~ between 6 and 30 % by weight.

2. (currently amended) A support according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the prehydrolyzed chitosan is ~~deposited~~ present in the coating layer in an amount of from 6 to 15 g/m^2 in dry matter.

3. (currently amended) A support according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the coating layer is in the form of a continuous film.

4. (currently amended) A support according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the prehydrolyzed chitosan has an average molar mass ~~has a mass~~ of between 15 000 and 40 000 g/mol.

5. (currently amended) A support according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the prehydrolyzed chitosan concentration in the aqueous solution is between 7 and 12 % by weight.

6. (currently amended) A support according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein ~~the chitosan is dissolved in~~ the aqueous solution is further comprised of ~~in the presence of~~ citric acid in an amount sufficient to dissolve the prehydrolyzed chitosan.

7. (currently amended) A support according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the chitosan-based coating layer contains at least 80 % by weight of the prehydrolyzed chitosan.

8. (currently amended) A support according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the amount of the ~~deposited~~ prehydrolyzed chitosan in the coating layer is 7 g/m^2 in dry matter.

9. (currently amended) A support according to claim 1, further comprising ~~characterised in that the chitosan-based layer is covered with~~ a wax layer which covers the chitosan-based coating layer.

10. (currently amended) A ~~manufacturing~~ process for making ~~of~~ a chitosan coated support, the process comprising the sequential steps of: ~~object of claim 1~~

(a) prehydrolyzing chitosan so as to achieve an average molar mass thereof of less than 130,000 g/mol;

(b) forming an aqueous chitosan-based solution comprised of between 6 and 30% by weight of the prehydrolyzed chitosan obtained according to step (a); and thereafter

(c) coating the aqueous chitosan-based solution onto a face of a substrate formed of organic and/or inorganic fibers to obtain the chitosan-coated support member.

11. (currently amended) A ~~manufacturing~~ process according to ~~claim 12~~ claim 10, ~~characterized in that the coating with~~ wherein step (c) is practiced so as to coat the

aqueous chitosan-based solution onto the face of the substrate ~~is performed~~ in only one step.

12. (currently amended) A ~~manufacturing~~ process according to ~~claim 13~~ claim 10, ~~characterized in that the coating~~ wherein step (c) is performed by the Meyer bar or blade type coating, metering size-press, coating with an engraved cylinder by direct coating, by transfer coating or reverse coating, curtain coating, by size-press.

13. (currently amended) A ~~manufacturing~~ process according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that the wax is introduced in the form of an~~ wherein step (b) comprises introducing wax into the aqueous ~~solution in the~~ chitosan-based solution so that the wax ~~representing between 0,1~~ is present in an amount of between 0.1 and 20 % by weight of the chitosan.

14. (new) A process according to claim 10, further comprising (d) drying the chitosan-coated support member to so that the prehydrolyzed chitosan remains as a dried layer on the substrate.

15. (new) A process according to claim 10, wherein step (c) is practiced so that the prehydrolyzed chitosan is present in the coating layer in an amount of from 6 to 15 g/m^2 in dry matter.

16. (new) A process according to claim 15, wherein the prehydrolyzed chitosan is present in the coating layer in an amount of 7 g/m^2 in dry matter.

17. (new) A process according to claim 10, wherein step (c) is practiced so as to form the coating layer as a continuous film.

18. (new) A process according to claim 10, wherein step (a) is practiced to obtain prehydrolyzed chitosan having an average molar mass of between 15 000 and 40 000 g/mol.

19. (new) A process according to claim 10, wherein the prehydrolyzed chitosan concentration in the aqueous chitosan-based solution is between 7 and 12 % by weight.

20. (new) A process according to claim 10, wherein step (b) includes incorporating citric acid into the aqueous chitosan-based solution in an amount sufficient to dissolve the chitosan therein.

21. (new) A process according to claim 10, wherein step (c) is practiced so that the chitosan-based coating layer contains at least 80 % by weight of chitosan.